



*News Release*  
*For Immediate Release*

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## **Proto Labs, Inc. continues global expansion.**

**World's fastest manufacturer of custom prototypes continues its international expansion.**

**Maple Plain, Minn., February 1, 2009**—Proto Labs, Inc., ([www.protolabs.com](http://www.protolabs.com)) the global leader in rapid injection molding ([www.protomold.com](http://www.protomold.com)) and quick-turn CNC machining ([www.firstcut.com](http://www.firstcut.com)), announces that it is expanding its international business.

Proto Labs has formed a new Japan subsidiary named Proto Labs K.K. The facility will be located near Tokyo and is scheduled to be fully operational by mid-2009. Three top executives have been hired to bring Proto Labs to Japan. They are Mr. Isao Yada, President, Ms. Masako Ono, Director of Marketing and Sales, and Mr. Khing Tam, Director of Operations. “We are very excited about the demand we see in Japan for our quick-turnaround services, and this team will do an outstanding job building our business there.” says Brad Cleveland, CEO of Proto Labs, Inc. Proto Labs K.K. will house all of the manufacturing, sales and customer support required by Japanese customers.

In addition, the Company is planning to open a sales office in France in the second quarter of 2009. “Our success with the Proto Labs office in Germany gives us great confidence that a similar investment in France will help us better serve French design engineers wishing to take advantage of our services,” says John Tumelty, MD Proto Labs, Ltd. Site selection and recruitment of key staff for the French Proto Labs office are underway.

Proto Labs has also expanded their U.S. export management system to support international requests for its First Cut CNC machining service. Now design engineers from outside the U.S. can take advantage of both Protomold’s and First Cut’s services.

### **About Proto Labs**

Proto Labs has radically changed the economics and lead times associated with low-volume production of injection molded and CNC machined parts through the use of proprietary software. Proto Labs offers two services in North America, Europe and Japan: Protomold and First Cut. Protomold’s rapid injection molding services provides up to 10,000 custom, plastic parts in as little as one business day. First Cut applies proprietary software to manufacture CNC machined prototype parts in as little as one business day. For more information, visit: [www.protolabs.com](http://www.protolabs.com).

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